United Nations A/RES/68/9

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 January 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 11

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 November 2013

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.8)*]

68/9. Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/5 of 17 October 2011, in which it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", and recalling also its prior decision to consider the sub-item every two years, in advance of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games,

Recalling also its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, which, inter alia, revived the ancient Greek tradition of *ekecheiria* ("Olympic Truce") calling for a truce during the Olympic Games to encourage a peaceful environment and ensure safe passage, access and participation for athletes and relevant persons at the Games, thereby mobilizing the youth of the world to the cause of peace,

Recalling further that the core concept of *ekecheiria*, historically, has been the cessation of hostilities from seven days before until seven days after the Olympic Games, which, according to the legendary oracle of Delphi, was to replace the cycle of conflict with a friendly athletic competition every four years,

Recalling the recognition of the valuable contribution of sport in promoting education, development, peace, cooperation, solidarity, fairness, social inclusion and health at the local, regional and international levels, and noting that, as declared in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] sports can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations,

Welcoming the designation of 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

Recalling the inclusion in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] of an appeal for the observance of the Olympic Truce now and in the future and for

[1] Resolution 60/1.

[2] Resolution 55/2.

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support for the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal,

Acknowledging the valuable contribution that the appeal launched by the International Olympic Committee on 21 July 1992 for an Olympic Truce could make towards advancing the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the joint statement dated 28 May 2012 of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[3] to promote the ideals of the Olympic Truce during the XXX Olympic Summer Games and the XIV Paralympic Summer Games in London in 2012 and the XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russian Federation, in 2014, and recognizing the importance of partnerships with the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the International Olympic Truce Foundation, the International Olympic Truce Centre, future hosts of the Games and other Member States, as well as the United Nations system, National Olympic and Paralympic Committees and other relevant stakeholders in supporting the implementation of the Olympic Truce,

Noting that the XXII Olympic Winter Games will take place from 7 to 23 February 2014 and that the XI Paralympic Winter Games will take place from 7 to 16 March 2014, in Sochi,

Recalling that one of the main goals of the Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi is to symbolize peaceful and constructive dialogue among peoples through the realization of the Sochi 2014 cultural and educational programmes, aimed at promoting key values of different cultures through art, enhancing better understanding among diverse communities and encouraging mutual respect, and contributing to peaceful coexistence, and acknowledging in this regard the creation of the Russian International Olympic University in Sochi to serve as an educational platform for spreading Olympic knowledge, ideals and traditions, including the Olympic Truce, worldwide,

Welcoming the significant impetus that the Olympic Summer Games, Paralympic Summer Games, Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games give to the volunteer movement around the world, acknowledging the contributions of volunteers to the success of the Games, and in this regard calling upon host countries to promote social inclusion without discrimination of any kind,

Noting the successful conclusion of the XXX Olympic Summer Games and the XIV Paralympic Summer Games, held in London from 27 July to 12 August and from 29 August to 9 September 2012, respectively, and welcoming the XXXI Olympic Summer Games and the XV Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 5 to 21 August and from 7 to 18 September 2016, respectively, the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and the XII Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 9 to 25 February and from 9 to 18 March 2018, respectively, and the XXXII Olympic Summer Games and the XVI Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Tokyo from 24 July to 9 August and from 25 August to 6 September 2020, respectively,

[3] A/66/831, annex.

Welcoming the partnerships that many United Nations system organizations have established with the International Olympic Committee, including the International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development, jointly organized by the Committee and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Acknowledging the joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and relevant United Nations entities in such fields as human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV and AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development,

Acknowledging also the importance of the Youth Olympic Games in inspiring youth through integrated sports and cultural and educational experiences, noting in this regard the successful conclusion of the first Youth Winter Olympic Games, held in Innsbruck, Austria, from 13 to 22 January 2012, and welcoming the second Youth Summer Olympic Games, to be held in Nanjing, China, from 16 to 28 August 2014 and the second Youth Winter Olympic Games, to be held in Lillehammer, Norway, from 12 to 21 February 2016,

Recalling the articles on leisure, recreation, sport and play of relevant international conventions, including article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] in which States parties recognized the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, and noting in this regard plans to stage integrated and inclusive Games for Everyone in 2014,

Welcoming the commitment made by various States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to developing national and international programmes that promote peace and conflict resolution, the Olympic and Paralympic values and the Olympic Truce ideals through sport and through culture, education, sustainable development and wider public engagement, and acknowledging the contribution of former hosts of the Olympic Games in this regard,

Recognizing the humanitarian opportunities presented by the Olympic Truce and by other initiatives supported by the United Nations to achieve the cessation of conflict,

Noting with satisfaction the flying of the United Nations flag at the Olympic stadium and in the Olympic villages of the Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games,

1. *Urges* Member States to observe the Olympic Truce individually and collectively, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, during the period from the seventh day before the start of the XXII Olympic Winter Games, to be held in Sochi, Russian Federation, from 7 to 23 February 2014, until the seventh day following the end of the XI Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Sochi from 7 to 16 March 2014;

2. *Underlines* the importance of cooperation among Member States to collectively implement the values of the Olympic Truce around the world, and emphasizes the important role of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the United Nations in this regard;

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

3. *Welcomes* the work of the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, as well as the International Olympic Truce Foundation and the International Olympic Truce Centre, in mobilizing national and international sports federations and organizations, National Olympic and Paralympic Committees and associations of National Olympic Committees to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and international levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the spirit of the Olympic Truce, and invites those organizations and national committees to cooperate and share information and best practices, as appropriate;

4. *Also welcomes* the leadership of Olympic and Paralympic athletes in promoting peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;

6. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, to work towards a meaningful and sustainable contribution through sport to raising awareness of and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and encourages the Olympic and Paralympic movements to work closely with national and international sports organizations on the use of sport to contribute to the achievement of the Goals;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to promote the observance of the Olympic Truce among Member States and support for human development initiatives through sport and to continue to cooperate effectively with the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the sporting community in general in the realization of those objectives;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the sub-item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" and to consider the sub-item before the XXXI Olympic Summer Games and the XV Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 5 to 21 August and from 7 to 18 September 2016, respectively.

44th plenary meeting
6 November 2013